

Compliance Assistance



Display of Required Information

EMPLOYER
RESPONSIBILITIES

California's worker safety regulations specify safe work practices for employees who handle pesticides or work in **treated fields (field workers, early-entry field workers)**. This booklet summarizes your responsibilities as an employer to properly **display** certain required information about pesticides at a central location, whenever employees are handling pesticides or working in treated fields on your property.

This booklet is not intended to replace product label information, the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets, or the California Code of Regulations. It is a reference tool that summarizes specific regulatory requirements and responsibilities that you — the employer — must follow. You are encouraged to contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office in the county or counties where you operate for any additional requirements specific to your area.

See **"Definitions You Need to Know"** at the back of this booklet for explanations of highlighted words.

What Information Must Be Displayed?

- "Hazard Communication Information for Employees Handling Pesticides in Agricultural Settings" (DPR Leaflet PSIS A-8).
- "Hazard Communication Information for Employees Working in Fields" (DPR Leaflet PSIS A-9).
- **Application-specific information** covering:
 1. Identification of the treated area;
 2. Time and date of the application;
 3. Restricted Entry Interval; and
 4. Pesticide product name, EPA Registration Number, and the active ingredients.
- **Emergency medical care information** covering:
 1. Name;
 2. Address; and
 3. Telephone number of physician, clinic, or emergency room able to provide emergency medical assistance.

Where Must the Information Be Displayed?

- **Display** "Hazard Communication Information for Employees Handling Pesticides in Agricultural Settings" (DPR Leaflet PSIS A-8)

in an easily seen **central location** where employees start their workday.

- **Display** “Hazard Communication Information for Employees Working In Fields” (DPR Leaflet PSIS A-9) **at the work site**, or at a **central location if they gather there before transportation to the work site.**
- **Display** application-specific information at a **central location.**
- **Display** by posting *emergency medical care information* **at the work site, or on the work vehicle, if there is no fixed work site.**

When Must the Information Be Displayed?

- **Display** “Hazard Communication Information for Employees Handling Pesticides In Agricultural Settings” (DPR Leaflet PSIS A-8) **before employees are allowed to handle pesticides.**
- **Display** “Hazard Communication Information for Employees Working In Fields” (DPR Leaflet PSIS A-9) **whenever employees are working in a treated field.**
- **Display** application-specific information **within 24 hours of the completion of an application.**

Note: This information must include all applications within 1/4 mile of where employees will be working; and must remain displayed until the area no longer meets the definition of a “treated field”, or handler employees will no longer be on the establishment, whichever occurs earlier.

- **Display** emergency *medical care information* **whenever employees are handling pesticides.**
- **Inform** handler-employees and field worker-employees (or their supervisor) of the name, location of a physician or medical-care facility where emergency medical-care is available.

What If You Don't Comply?

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the County Agricultural Commissioners enforce California pesticide laws and regulations. It is your responsibility to take all reasonable measures to assure that employees handle and use pesticides in accordance with the requirements of law, regulations, and pesticide product labeling requirements.

If you follow the worker safety requirements, you protect your employee's health, the environment, and yourself. If you do not comply, with California's worker safety requirements, you will violate federal and

State law. DPR and the Counties' Agricultural Commissioners have the authority to levy substantial penalties on persons who violate pesticide laws. Penalties range from \$50 for minor violations to \$50,000, and imprisonment for certain violations that have 'created or reasonably could have created a hazard to human health or the environment.' Also, persons who hold a license or certificate issued by DPR and who are found in violation can have their license or certificate suspended or revoked.

Definitions You Need To Know

Handle – means mixing, loading, transferring, applying (including chemigation), or assisting with the application (including flagging) of pesticides (It does not include: local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties). Also, it includes:

- Incorporating (mechanical or watered-in) pesticides in the soil.
- Maintaining, servicing, repairing, cleaning, or handling equipment used in these activities that may contain residues.
- Working with opened (including emptied but not rinsed) containers of pesticides.
- Adjusting, repairing, or removing treatment site coverings.
- Entry into a treated area during any application or before the inhalation exposure level listed on pesticide product labeling has been reached, or greenhouse ventilation criteria have been met.
- Performing the duties of a crop advisor, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well being of plants, or taking samples during an application or during any restricted entry interval listed on pesticide product labeling.

Treated Field – means a field that has been treated with a pesticide or had a restricted entry interval in effect within the last 30 days (It does not include areas inadvertently contaminated by drift or overspray). Also, it includes:

- Associated roads, paths, ditches, borders, and headlands, if the pesticide was also directed to those areas.

Assure – means to take all reasonable measures so that the behavior, activity, or event in question occurs. When the behavior, activity, or event in question involves or concerns an employee, reasonable measures by an employer include determining that the employee has the knowledge to comply; providing the means to comply; supervising the work activity; and having and enforcing a written workplace disciplinary action policy covering the employer's requirements, as well as other measures required by pesticide law or regulation.

Display – means to make information available to your employees so that they may readily see and read the documents, during normal business hours, without having to ask anyone. Employees must not be hindered or impeded from examining the documents that are required to be displayed. However, you may legally keep these documents in a binder or filing cabinet provided you inform your employees of the location and their right to access the documents without asking.

Field Worker – means any person who, for any kind of compensation, performs cultural activities in a field. It does not include performing tasks as a crop advisor, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well being of the plants, or taking samples, nor does it include local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties.

Early-Entry Field Worker – means any person who enters into a treated field or other area after the pesticide application is complete, but before the restricted entry interval or other restrictions on entry for that pesticide have expired.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office.

A complete set of the worker safety regulations is available online from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's web site at: **www.cdpr.ca.gov**



**California Department
of Pesticide Regulation**

A Department of the California
Environmental Protection Agency